

In attendance: Chair, Denny Heinz, Carl Kaufmann, Erik Elwell, Patrick Evans, Gary Pollard, Tracy Fredericks, Clerk, Stephen Land, Harbormaster, Cassius Shuman, Block Island Times,
Absent: Arlene Tunney, Charlie Gustafson.

Chair, Heinz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

1. Public Input/Correspondence-no public input.
Correspondence-Fredericks gave members a copy of the proposed ordinance changes which were submitted to the Town Council. Pollard expressed concern that this change would not make a difference, suggested adding a phrase saying “at the discretion of the Harbormaster, with an appeal to the Harbors Committee”. Land also suggested we add language requiring the mooring owners to have insurance coverage for their vessels. This could get rid of some of the derelict vessels and people using a dinghy, kayak etc. to hold their mooring. Pollard address the use of moorings by guests of the mooring owner, suggesting some owners may have a “deal” with the owners that allow them to stay on their mooring all season. Elwell suggested we discuss a limit to the amount of time a guest can stay on a mooring; this could stop people from renting out their moorings to a guest for whatever amount they want. Pollard also said we have to try and move the waitlist. It’s the spirit of the law that is at issue, not necessarily if people are making money from renting their moorings. Having a mooring is a privilege, people who own a mooring should use it, otherwise it should be offered to someone that

will use it on the waitlist. Land and Evans did not feel there should be a time limit for guest use. Land further suggested we come up with requirements for mooring owners to have insurance for their vessels which would include liability, and salvage insurance. Land and Fredericks will come up with insurance requirement for the next meeting.

2. Approve Minutes: August 18, 2016 meeting. Kaufmann made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Pollard. The motion passed.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

3. Committee Reports

a. New Harbor- No report

b. Old Harbor Report-No report

4. Report from Chair: Heinz reported that everything is cleaned up out of Old Harbor, except for a few remaining vessels.

5. Shellfish Report- Land reported that we are monitoring for a bacteria that has affected all of New England. It is here in the pond but the toxin is not present. Shellfishing is still open. We are testing twice a week. It is a natural bacterium that can be harmful to humans.

Otherwise shellfish is awesome. We have winterized the upweller, it was a great success, the clams grew from 3mm to the size of a half dollar. We also had many kids and families watch us maintain the upweller. We have ordered 250,000 seed clams for the upweller for next season. The company we ordered the seed from is Aquaculture Research Corporation, Dennis, MA.

6. Harbormaster Report-Land reported that things are finally winding down. We have all the moorings out of the water. There are only a few boats left in the water. We are increasing the number of orange balls which provide more swing room, boats up to 55'. We will have 20 orange balls next season. Kaufmann asked about larger sized mooring and if we have a service provider on island, capable of handling larger mooring. Land responded that we currently do not, but we are in the process of finding someone that can, someone that could lift and set 1,500 lb. moorings. Elwell suggested we have the size of the mooring written on the mooring ball to prevent larger vessels from using a mooring that is too small. Pollard asked what is the incentive to offer larger moorings if we are charging the same price. Land offered that we have a high demand for the larger moorings; it is an issue of safety. The committee agreed we should ask for a higher rate for the larger moorings.

7. Riparian Moorings-Land reported that Fredericks and I are working on the language. First we write the Town Ordinances and then we add it to the Harbor Management Plan. Land explained that if you own

property on the water, the State says you have the privilege to ask for up to 4 moorings. The Town can set the actual number of moorings a person may ask for. The Town has never addressed this issue before; we don't have any wording in our ordinances for this. The mooring placement should be placed within the property line. They do not have to be in a designated mooring field. The placement would be decided with the advisement of the Harbormaster. The mooring owner must still abide by all the rules as other types of moorings, including payment, maintenance and permit requirements.

8. Welcome Center Location-Pollard pointed out that the Boat Basin docks clearly infringe on the riparian waterlines of the properties to the West. Land offered that this is a topic for a maritime lawyer. Heinz added that these properties were originally all owned by the Mott family. Pollard suggested we barter with the Motts; they can keep the boat basin docks in exchange for a welcome center on the Mott property between the Narragansett and the Oar.

The group continued discussion on the topic; Kaufmann suggested we try talking to the Mott family. There was continued discussion regarding the possible use of the K&H property which the Land Trust originally said was not an option for the Welcome Center. The committee agreed that they were confused by this new decision of the Land Trust. Fredericks suggested we get on the next meeting agenda of the Land Trust.

9. Mooring Insurance-Discussed with item 1.

10. Docks at Rat Island-Fredericks said she has been in contact with the Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) regarding this issue. They have responded by saying they have a similar situation in another town in Rhode Island and will get back to us after they have a meeting in house to decide how to proceed.

11. Marina fires and suppression-Fredericks explained that she had once again tried to contact the Town Fire Chief to attend tonight's meeting with no response. This topic is tabled for a future meeting.

A motion was made by Heinz to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Elwell.

The motion passed.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Fredericks-Clerk

11/5/16